

Calendar program keeps schedule

If you find yourself splitting time between your personal computer and an appointment book, it's time to look into calendar software.

Calendar Creator Plus, available for \$49.95 from Channelmark Corp. of San Mateo, Calif., is just one of several calendar software packages emerging on the market. At this price, you just may decide to abandon your wall calendar or Day-Timer.

The greatest advantage of this software is its print feature, which allows you to print calendars that cover one day, two days, a week, a month, a year or more. The process is hassle-free and the result is a neat, concise calendar that's easily updated to get you through a day or a business project.

Here's how it works:

■ You start creating a calendar by entering events, dates, times and their priorities into an "overlay." Different overlays represent your business schedule, travel plans, a social agenda or a holiday calen-



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dar. You also could use overlays to plan out a team project, with one overlay for each team member's tasks.

■ Calendar Creator Plus has an easy-to-use editing feature that lets you quickly change an overlay to add new events or reschedule. It also features a "wild card" function that lets you program recurring events, such as regular monthly meetings and birthdays, into your overlays.

■ To create a specific calendar, choose the overlays you want to combine. You could use all of them for a weekly "master calendar," or you may just want one or two, for instance, to show a business travel schedule.

■ Then choose the date or dates

and the calendar format you want and print it out. Printing requires a dot-matrix or laser printer.

Of the numerous scheduling programs on the market today, I like the print function on this calendar software the best. None of the others has the printing flexibility and versatility of this one.

On the downside, Calendar Creator Plus is not as useful as it could be since it's not "memory resident" — you can't switch into it with a touch of a key from another program. So, if your boss wants to schedule a meeting while you're in your data base program, and you want to enter it to your calendar, you must exit the data base, call up the calendar, enter the event, quit the calendar and then call up the data base again.

The software also doesn't come with documentation. Although there's a menu-driven tutorial, I found the tutorial confusing and rather cumbersome. You may wish to print out the 14 pages of

instructions included on the disk. These instructions are clearly written, and with their aid, I was printing calendars about an hour later.

The program is available on either a 5 1/4-inch floppy disk or on a new 3 1/2-inch floppy that fits IBM PS/2s.

The bottom line: If you do a lot of scheduling or you have many appointments to keep track of, Calendar Creator Plus is well worth the investment for its printing versatility.

But if you're looking for a program to keep your own personal schedule and you're not as concerned with printouts, you're probably better off with a memory-resident scheduling program or an old fashioned Day-Timer.

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